In one embodiment, the contact parts of the female connector may be spring contact parts that protrude from the shielding shell of the female connector toward the shielding shell of the male connector. The contact parts of the male connector may be contact surfaces of the shielding shell of the male connector that contact the spring contact parts.

The latching arm may be made of metal with the first engaging part being an engaging hole that is formed in the latching arm. The second engaging part may be an anchoring projection which is caused to protrude from the shielding shell of the female connector, and which engages with the engaging hole.

The male connector of the present invention is equipped with an insulating housing that holds contacts, a shielding shell that is externally mounted on this insulating housing, and a locking part that is disposed on the outside of this shielding shell and that engages with a mating connector. The locking part has a metal latching arm with the approximate shape of a shallow inverted V. A front end of the arm is fastened to the tip end portion of the shielding shell, and a rear end is held so that the rear end can slide on the surface of the shielding shell. The latching arm has an engaging part which is located near the front end part of the latching arm. The engaging part engages with a mating engaging part of the mating connector. A pressing part is located on the rear part of the latching arm.

In one embodiment, the engaging part may be an engaging hole formed in the forward-facing surface of the latching arm that has the approximate shape of a shallow inverted V. The pressing part may be the rearward-facing surface of the latching arm that is inclined toward the rear. The term "approximate shape of a shallow inverted V" refers to the approximate shape of a peak with a relatively low height.

A covering enclosure may be formed on the outside of the shielding shell with the tip end portion of the shielding shell exposed. This enclosure may have a finger-catch part on the rearward-facing surface that makes it possible to push this rearward-facing surface.

In the electrical connector assembly of the present invention, the male connector has a latching arm which has a first engaging part, and this first engaging part has electrical continuity with the shielding shell of the male connector. Furthermore, the female connector has a second engaging part which has electrical continuity with the shielding shell of the female connector, and which engages with the first engaging part of the male connector. Both shielding shells have a plurality of contact parts which are disposed in the direction perpendicular to the direction of insertion of the connectors, and which contact each other when the connectors are engaged with each other, with the first engaging part and the second engaging part acting in conjunction to form a portion of the contact parts. The plurality of contact parts as a whole are disposed at equal intervals in the direction perpendicular to the direction of insertion of the connectors. Accordingly, an electrical connector assembly can be obtained which has the desired shielding performance, i.e. noise resistance, while being compact in size.

The contact parts of the female connector can be spring contact parts that are caused to protrude from the shielding shell of the female connector toward the shielding shell of the male connector. In such embodiment, the contact parts of the male connector are contact surfaces of the shielding shell of the male connector that contact the spring contact parts of the female connector. The electrical connection of the two shielding shells of this configuration can be made

much more secure, and the reliability of the noise resistance can be improved.

In an embodiment where [a] the latching arm is made of metal, [b] the first engaging part of the latching arm is an engaging hole that is formed in the latching arm, and [c] the second engaging part of the female connector is an anchoring projection which is caused to protrude from the shielding shell of the female connector, and which engages with the engaging hole of the latching arm, the latching arm is a plate-form metal part with a simple shape that has no projections. Accordingly, an electrical connector assembly which has a strong and compact latching arm can be obtained.

The male connector of the present invention is equipped with an insulating housing, a shielding shell that is externally mounted on the insulating housing, and a locking part that is disposed on the outside of the shielding shell. The locking part has a metal latching arm with the approximate shape of a shallow inverted V. The front end of the latching arm is fastened to the tip end portion of the shielding shell, and the rear end is held so that this rear end can slide on the surface of the shielding shell. The latching arm has an engaging part which is located near the front end part of the latching arm, and which engages with an engaging part of the other connector. A pressing part is located on the rear part of the latching arm. Accordingly, it is possible to obtain a male connector which has the desired shielding performance (noise resistance) while being compact in size.

In an embodiment where the engaging part of the latching arm is an engaging hole formed in the forward-facing surface of the latching arm, which has the approximate shape of a shallow inverted V, and the pressing part is the rearward-facing surface of the latching arm, which is inclined toward the rear, a compact male connector